

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO

## INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR/ Hungary

CD NO.

DATE DISTR. 8 Aug 51

SUBJECT ~~Composition of Soviet Armed Forces in Hungary~~

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE 25X1C  
ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

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1. In the Trans-Danubian area of western Hungary, there were three Soviet divisions. One in the region of Szombathely (the 17th Motorized Division), one in the area of Zalaegerszeg-Nagykanizsa (the 57th Motorized Infantry Division), and one in the area of Szekesfehervar-Hajmáskér-Várpalota (unit number unknown). The main strength of the Soviet troops stationed in the great Hungarian plain is concentrated in the area of Kécskemet-Nagykoros (the 98th Tank Division); parts of a motorized and mechanized Soviet division (mainly its artillery units), which came from Transylvania are now located in a few villages of the counties of Csanád-Csongrad, and small units of a motorized infantry division (unit number unknown) are located on the upper Tisza River and in the counties of Szabolcs and Zemplén. These units are believed to be parts of a Soviet division stationed in Northern Transylvania. The Soviet units in the county of Csongrad are reported to be parts of the 39th Division, but according to another report, they are units detached from one of the following three Soviet divisions: the 202nd, the 208th, or the 211th Division. The uncertainty of the reports concerning the unit numbers of the Soviet divisions may be caused by the fact that, for security reasons, the Soviets often change the unit numbers of their divisions.
2. In late spring, the Soviet troops stationed in Hungary participated in various maneuvers; 280 Soviet tanks were transported from Szombathely by rail eastward to the interior of the country. Similar movements were observed in Koerment. Much of the Soviet artillery was sent to Hajmáskér for target practice, while the mechanized infantry and tanks were maneuvering near Lake Balaton. The Soviet units, stationed on the Hungarian plain, have been moving around almost constantly since the start of the dry season.
3. According to all indications, the Soviet armed forces in Hungary are not being grouped for any offensive action; consequently, I believe that no Soviet offensive may be expected in the next two or three months. In Hungary Soviet preparations for a major war have not yet been completed; the strengthening of the bridges, reconstruction work on the railroads and roads, however, is being continued feverishly. Soviet jet-propelled planes are arriving in Hungary in increasing numbers, and recently the Hungarian Air Force was given enough jet planes to equip three squadrons.
4. The units of the Soviet Air Force belong to the Second Air Fleet. The Soviet jet planes are located on the airfields of Horthyliget and Papa, the latter being the strongest Soviet airbase in Hungary where more than 200 planes (mostly pursuit planes) are kept permanently. In Pécs and Tapolca, there are Soviet pursuit planes; in Miskolc, transport planes; and a complete pursuit plane regiment is in Horthyliget. In Tászar, the Soviets have fighters; and in Debrecen, a pursuit unit. In general, the pursuit units form the main bulk of the Soviet Air Force in Hungary, which amounts to about 450-480 planes.

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5. In Budapest, the Soviet garrison is small and is composed of two motorized infantry battalions. There is a Soviet Technical School for Officers in a wing of the Bolyai Academy, and in almost every district of the capital, there are staff officers, MVD commands, etc.

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